

IN THE ABSTRACT

Replace the abstract originally provided on the cover sheet of the PCT application with the new abstract as follows: A new abstract numbered page 49 is enclosed for the last page of the application following the claims.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An integrated optical waveguide structure having a waveguide core for guiding an optical field, formed on a lower cladding layer. The waveguide core has a waveguide core layer substantially coextensive to the lower cladding layer and having a substantially uniform thickness, and a waveguide core rib of a substantially uniform height protruding from a surface of the waveguide core layer opposite to a surface thereof facing the lower cladding layer. A layout of the waveguide core rib defines a path for the guided optical field. The integrated optical waveguide structure has a circuit waveguide portion in which the waveguide core layer has a first width, adapted for guiding the optical field through an optical circuit, and at least one coupling waveguide portion adapted for coupling the circuit waveguide portion to an external optical field. The coupling portion has a terminal waveguide core rib portion having a second width lower than the first width and terminating in a facet, and a transition waveguide core rib portion optically joining to each other the circuit waveguide portion and the terminal waveguide portion, the transition waveguide core rib portion being laterally tapered so that a width thereof decreases from the first width to the second width. The waveguide structure allows an integrated optical device designer satisfying optical circuits needs and, at the same time, ensuring a satisfactory coupling efficiency with an external field.